

Def. Doc. #1794 (corrected copy)

February ,1947.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: . . .

This is to state that from early 1927 until 1941 I was chief of the Far Eastern Bureau for The New York Times, with headquarters first in Peking and later in Shanghai. During that period I knew intimately Mamoru Shigemitsu, at one time Japan's Ambassador to China, later Ambassador to England, and Foreign Minister.

I know that I enjoyed Shigemitsu's friendship, liking and confidence, and during years of personal and professional contact never knew him to mislead me in any way, or misrepresent facts.

Shigemitsu, at present a defendant in what are known as the War Crimes Trials in Tokyo, was never, to my knowledge, a supporter of the Jingo Military clique, but actively opposed it. He disapproved of their ideas, aims and actions. I know that he sincerely deplored the invasion of Manchuria in 1931, and did his best to localize and end hostilities.

I saw him often on terms of great intimacy during the Chino-Japanese fighting in and around Shanghai early in 1932, and know from his actions and from his own statements to me that he was shocked and horrified by that conflict. Throughout the fighting he was doing his utmost to prevent its spreading beyond the vicinity of Shanghai and to terminate it as soon as possible. It was mainly through the efforts and collaboration of Shigemitsu and the American and British Ministers to China that the truce Agreement was signed terminating the hostilities and resulting in the withdrawal of the Japanese and Chinese forces. Not only did he oppose that conflict upon moral grounds, but as a patriotic Japanese he felt that aggression and expansion could bring only eventual defeat and ruin to the Empire of which he was a loyal subject.

After he lost his leg in a bomb explosion at Hongkew Park in Shanghai early in 1932, I saw Shigemitsu every time I went to Japan until he left for Europe. We often lunched or dined together, usually alone, and from conversations we had at those times I am convinced he never espoused the policies which led to the invasion of China in 1937 and finally to the attack upon Pearl Harbor in 1941. I know he opposed the China invasion, and from all I know of him after years of intimacy I feel certain he would have opposed the Pearl Harbor attack if had had any foreknowledge of that move.

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To me it seemed one of Fate's bitter ironies that this fine man should have been put in the position of having to sign Japan's surrender in 1945, for he never approved nor supported the policies which led to that defeat and surrender.

(Signed) Hallett Abend
Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 26th day of February, 1947.

(Signed) HARRY L. RUSSELL.
Notary Public in the State of New York
Washington County, No.229
My commission expires March 30,1948

關係各位

余ハ六ノ通り陳述スルモノデアアル。余ハ一九二七年初期ヨリ一九四一年迄、最初北京ニ、後上海ニ本據ヲオイテ居タニユ一ヨーク、タイムズ」紙極京局長デアツタ。右期間余ハ一時日本ノ駐華大使、後駐英大使及び外務大臣デアツタ重光葵ヲ親シク知ツテ居タ。余ハ余ガ重光ノ友誼ヲ受ケ、氣ニ入り、信用ヲ博シタコトヲ知ツテ居リ數年私的ニ又業務上接觸シタ間ニ於テ氏ガ何等余ヲ誤解セシメヤウトシタトナク又事實ヲ誤リ傳ヘタコトノナカツタコトヲ知ツテ居ル。現在カノ東京戰犯裁判ノ被告タル重光ハ余ノ知ル限り好戰的軍閥ノ支持者デハ全然ナク、否之ニ反對シテ居タ。氏ハ彼等ノ思想、目的及び行動ニ不賛成デアツタ。余ハ氏ガ一九三一年滿洲ノ侵略ヲ眞ニ悲シミ、軍事行動ヲ局地化シ終結セシメル爲全力ヲ盡シタコトヲ知ツテ居ル。余ハ一九三二年上海及び其ノ附近ニ於ケル日華間ノ戰鬪ノ間屢々極メテ親シク氏ニ會ヒ、氏ノ行動及び氏自身余ニ對シ述ベタコトニヨリ、氏ガ右衝突ニヨリ衝突ヲ受ケ、怖レヲナシタコトヲ知ツテ居ル。氏ハ衝突ノ間ヲ通ジテ、之ガ上海附近以外ニ擴大スルコトヲ阻止シ、出來得ル限り速ニ終結セシメヤウト極力ヤツテ居タ。停戰協定ガ署名セラレ戰鬪行爲ガ停止シ日華兩軍ノ撤收ニ至ツタノハ主トシテ重光及び米英駐華公使ノ努力及び協力ノ賜デアアル。氏ハ道德的理由ニヨリ衝突ニ反對シタバカリ

デナク、氏ハ愛國心ニ富ム日本人トシテ、侵略ヲビ擴張ハ氏ガ忠良ナ臣民タル日本帝國ニ結局敗戦ト破滅ヲ齎スバカリデアルト思ツタカラデア

ル。
一九二二年ノ初期上海ノ虹口公園ニ於ケル爆彈ノ破裂ニヨリ氏ガ脚ヲ失ツタ余ガ歐洲ヘ去ル迄余ハ日本ヘ行ツタ度毎ニ重光ニ會ツタ。我々ハ屢々例ヲ互ダケデ午餐又ハ晚餐ヲトツタガ、コンナ場合ノ我々ノ會話カラ余ハ氏ガ一九三七年中國ノ侵略及ビ遂ニ一九四一年眞珠灣攻撃ニ立到ラシメタ政策ヲ力ヲ入レテ支持シタコトハ全然ナカツタコトヲ確信シテ居ル。余ハ氏ガ中國侵略ニ反對デアツタコトヲ知ツテ居リ、永年親シクシテ氏ヲ知ル所カラシテ、余ハ氏ガ眞珠灣攻撃ヲ事前ニ知ツテ居タナラバコノ舉ニ反對シタコトハ確デアルト感ズルモノデアル。余ニハコノ立派ナ人ガ一九四五年日本ノ降伏文書ノ署名ヲスル立場ニ置カレタノハ運命ノ神ノヒドイ皮肉ト思ヘレタ。ソレハ氏ガ敗戦及ビ降伏ニ至ラシメタ政策ニ全然賛成モセズ支持モシナカツタカラデアアル。

一九四七年二月

「ハレット、アベント」(署名)

一九四六年十二月十八日余ノ面前ニ於テ宣誓署名ス

Dof, Doo, 5170

「ニューヨーク」州ワシントン」郡公證人
第二二九

「ハリ、エル、ラッセル」(署名)

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